Brenda Hillman, Wesley Gibson, and Sara Mumolo

This assessment will evaluate the Masters of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing’s fourth learning outcome:
Students will be able work effectively as professional writers: publish work in literary journals and magazines; solicit and procure literary agents; solicit and procure publishers for manuscripts or book projects; give public readings; apply for and receive funding for literary projects; exhibit a preparedness for finding employment in various professional fields, such as education, journalism, public relations, publishing, and technical writing.

There will be three components to the assessment project: the first component is a survey of MFA alumni that catalogs literary projects and accomplishments; the second component is a direct measure of work where faculty will examine a published piece of writing from a selection of alumni; and the third component is an informational interview between participating faculty and alumni. Assessment results will inform the MFA Program in Creative Writing Faculty and Steering Committee of the effectiveness of the fourth learning outcome.

Historically, the MFA Program has emphasized a curriculum that address the craft of writing more than publishing, but we want to make sure our students are prepared to ascertain if their work is suitable for publication. The aim of the assessment project is to improve the understanding of how the MFA Program prepares students to assume the role of a professional writer in the marketplace.